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Market News

Issued LIVESTOCK DIVISION Weekly

MARKET REVIEWS AND STATISTICS

Vol. 24, No. 2 January 10, 1956

Week ended January 7

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION
Washington 25, D. C.

AGRI-WASH

MIDWEST LIVESTOCK MARKET REVIEW

Livestock receipts increased compared with the closing week of 1955 but with a few exceptions were below a year ago. Demand for slaughter cattle expanded and prices showed a general advance. With few exceptions, fed steers sold steady to $1.00 higher, reflecting moderate strength in wholesale dressed beef prices. Other slaughter cattle sold largely steady to 50¢ higher. Trading in hogs was fairly stable with late prices of butchers steady to 25¢ higher than a week earlier at most midwest markets. Slaughter lambs closed steady to 50¢ higher at some markets and 25-75¢ lower at others.

SLAUGHTER CATTLE AND CALVES

Substantial improvement in prices of most cattle featured the trade during the initial week of 1956. Price betterment was general in heifers, cows, bulls and vealers but the trend on steers was somewhat uneven. At Omaha a liberal supply of Good to low-Choice 1150-1500# steers sold steady to 50¢ lower and steers around 1200# up sold weak to 25¢ lower at St. Joseph. With those exceptions, steers closed steady to $1.00 higher, maximum advance at Chicago and St. Louis National Stock Yards. Buyers were very aggressive on Choice steer yearlings around 1000# down and in instances these sold $1.50 or more higher. Heifers, cows and bulls were mainly steady to 50¢ higher for the week, vealers advancing about $1.00 to reach highest levels in recent months. Stronger dressed beef and veal prices at wholesale centers were an incentive to higher live prices, but recent supply abridgment, due largely to holiday influences, and broadened demand were considered more important factors in the week's stronger price trend. Fed steers over 1300# were not quite as numerous as recently but quite a sizable volume was offered for this time of year, and a few loads at Omaha were returned to the country late due to unsatisfactory bids. Average weight of beef steers at Chicago was 1141# or 50# above a year ago, while the average of 1127# at Omaha was 34# heavier than a year ago. Thirteen loads of average-Prime to high-Prime 1050-1275# steers brought $23.75-24.50 at Chicago; bulk Choice and Prime under 1400# $19.50-23.50; same grades of 1400-1550# $19.00-22.00; bulk Good steers $16.00-19.50; Utility and Commercial $12.50-15.00. High-Choice and Prime steers around 1100# down sold at other midwest markets from $21.50-23.00, bulk Good and Choice $16.00-21.50; a scattering high-Choice and Prime 1450-1660# $17.65-19.50, Prime 1425# at Omaha $20.75, 1458# $20.50, 1489# $20.00, and 1538# steers of the same grade $19.50. High-Choice 1401# steers brought $20.50 at Kansas City, high-Choice 1510# with a few Prime $19.00.

STOCKER AND FEEDER CATTLE AND CALVES

Marketings for the second consecutive week were interrupted by a Monday holiday, and receipts of stocker and feeder cattle and calves continued relatively small, with scarcely enough at several markets for an adequate test of price levels. However, at Kansas City where supplies were materially larger than at most other terminals, shipments of steers to the country totaled 3,146, compared with only 1,366 the previous week and 2,488 a year ago. Poor winter grazing conditions in much of the southwest and western range areas as a result of a prolonged dry spell influenced a limited movement of cattle to market during the week under review, and marketings are expected to expand in the next few weeks. At the same time, mild winter weather favorable to the handling of cattle tended to stimulate demand for stockers in areas more fortunately situated as far as moisture and water were concerned. Consequently, with a stronger price trend for fat cattle also encouraging increased interest, trading for the light to moderate numbers of stockers and feeders on offer was fairly active at steady to 50¢ higher prices, instances as much as $1.00 up. Calves and yearlings 650# down showed most strength. Feeder steers and heifers also strengthened to some extent in sympathy with upturns in fat cattle prices. However, feeder buyers still were inclined to proceed with considerable caution in the face of the continued unfavorable price relationship between

fats and feeders. For example, the average cost of $16.96 for all steers shipped to the country from Kansas City during the week was only $2.61 under a year ago, while the average price of $18.07 for beef steers there was $5.87 below a year ago. A relatively wide price gap exists between the various weights of stocker and feeder steers. A few Choice fleshy 800-900# feeders brought $18.00-18.50, but sellers had difficulty in obtaining more than $17.50 for rank and file of steers 600# up. Meanwhile, Choice 560# stockers sold upward to $21.00, and Choice steer calves reached $22.50.

HOGS

Combined receipts increased moderately over recent weeks and were largest since mid-December. All interests competed aggressively the forepart of the week and price ranges narrowed somewhat, widening again later as packer demand lessened. Shippers continued active throughout, taking butchers up to around 250#. With the exception of a downward price adjustment of 25-50¢ at Indianapolis, prices of both butchers and sows closed strong to 25¢ higher at terminal markets. In the Interior Iowa-Southern Minnesota area late prices were steady to 10¢ lower on butchers, steady on sows. Much of the butcher crop consisted of 190-270# weights, bulk of which graded No. 2 and 3. The uneven finish of many butchers and unevenness in the trade itself resulted in price variations of 50¢ to as much as $1.00 on comparable weight hogs. There was little or no sorting for grade within lots at several centers with only moderate to little sorting for weight. Demand for butchers over 240# expanded to some extent. The average weight of 242# for barrows and gilts at Chicago was heaviest for any week since May 1955. In the Interior many excessively fat No. 3 butchers sold as much as 40¢ under No. 2 offerings of the same weight. However, the proportion of such hogs purchased at discounts was somewhat smaller than in the previous week. There were also fewer sales of straight No. 1 lots in spite of price advantages of 40-50¢ over No. 2 offerings of the same weight. Feeder pig prices were little changed. Good and Choice feeders at Sioux City brought $9.00-9.75, and at South St. Paul $8.00-9.00, a few lots 125-135# at Kansas City $9.00.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Marketings of sheep and lambs expanded to a moderate degree following the holiday lull, but with the exception of the past two weeks, receipts at the 12 markets were smallest since last August. Slaughter lambs sold very unevenly in the opening week of the new year, with prices at some markets steady to 50¢ higher, and at others 25-75¢ lower. Sheep sold mainly steady and feeder lambs steady to 50¢ or more higher. Trading on shorn lambs appeared especially erratic. Prices of shorn lambs at some points were fully as high as for the same grades of wooled lambs, while at other centers shorn lambs sold $1.00 or more below comparable wooled offerings. Good to Prime wooled lambs sold mainly at $16.50-19.25, a few to $19.50. Weights over 110#, however, were generally discounted $1.00-2.00 or more. Cull to low-Good lambs brought $10.00-16.50. Good to Prime lambs with No. 3 to fall shorn pelts bulked at $17.00-18.75, a few $19.00 and above. Most yearlings brought $16.00-16.50, and Cull to Choice slaughter ewes brought $3.00-7.50. Medium to Choice feeder lambs sold at $14.00-18.50. A few short term breeding ewes realized $8.50.

WESTERN LIVESTOCK REVIEW

Receipts of salable cattle and calves increased over the relatively small volume of the previous week. However improvement in the dressed beef trade on the West Coast influenced fairly active trading on slaughter steers, heifers and cows at steady to 50¢ higher prices, the advance mainly at terminal markets. Slaughter calves and vealers closed steady to $1.00 higher. A small volume of stocker and feeder cattle sold at unevenly 50¢ higher to 50¢ lower prices. Barrows and gilts declined 25-50¢ at Spokane but sold steady to 50¢ higher at other markets. Slaughter lambs closed steady to 25¢ higher.

Choice slaughter steers sold at western terminals from $18.00-20.50, a few loads up to $21.50 at Denver, bulk Good steers $16.00-18.00, Commercial $14.00-16.00;

Continued on page 40.

RECEIPTS, SALABLE AND TOTAL OF LIVESTOCK AT PUBLIC STOCKYARDS
Month of December

Market	Cattle				Calves			
	Salable		Total		Salable		Total	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
Chicago	182,147	188,746	190,577	190,834	4,702	6,125	8,345	7,128
Cincinnati	16,471	17,706	21,650	22,109	3,510	4,033	3,647	4,480
Denver	53,140	61,518	77,643	74,930	5,980	5,419	7,355	7,158
Fort Worth	33,768	41,969	47,150	57,115	8,732	15,353	13,251	21,782
Indianapolis	33,635	38,603	34,346	38,895	4,317	6,106	4,317	6,106
Kansas City	99,276	86,392	118,811	107,618	6,628	10,796	13,775	23,423
Oklahoma City	45,874	46,574	52,310	49,978	4,792	9,995	5,386	12,592
Omaha	163,049	167,734	166,610	172,665	6,724	8,016	7,279	8,343
St. Joseph	60,307	62,635	62,412	63,894	4,896	5,112	5,788	5,570
St. Louis NSY	72,028	67,718	79,343	75,315	15,056	17,304	18,242	26,702
Sioux City	105,450	103,073	110,972	106,905	11,827	9,384	13,552	10,355
S. St. Paul	97,013	98,309	101,806	101,997	55,308	57,372	57,386	59,922
Total	962,158	980,977	1,063,630	1,062,255	132,472	155,015	158,323	193,561

Market	Hogs				Sheep			
Chicago	355,426	305,371	403,527	379,137	57,522	60,548	62,656	64,814
Cincinnati	67,281	52,623	79,346	63,592	3,694	4,364	4,389	5,103
Denver	15,703	21,722	73,459	75,390	42,333	37,422	63,977	57,095
Fort Worth	5,813	6,911	83,466	52,215	24,193	32,255	36,725	47,543
Indianapolis	201,318	188,929	201,318	188,929	18,439	22,199	18,561	23,063
Kansas City	49,651	40,033	65,495	43,195	23,406	26,245	27,535	43,232
Oklahoma City	7,144	10,601	94,898	75,545	9,594	8,715	11,081	10,042
Omaha	322,098	259,635	433,285	338,988	43,398	55,641	57,324	66,513
St. Joseph	177,477	142,252	233,693	196,683	29,831	34,201	51,498	63,509
St. Louis NSY	286,341	221,083	354,670	271,961	35,170	32,215	44,128	38,335
Sioux City	285,686	251,468	311,067	264,041	44,046	49,312	51,396	55,470
S. St. Paul	409,292	307,292	430,968	341,224	82,057	77,341	99,018	89,123
Total	2,183,230	1,808,120	2,765,192	2,290,900	413,683	440,458	528,288	563,842

INTERIOR IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

	Hogs	Sheep
December 1955	2,194,500	144,600
December 1954	1,780,000	145,300

RECEIPTS, SALABLE AND TOTAL, OF LIVESTOCK AT PUBLIC STOCKYARDS
Calendar year

Market	Cattle				Calves			
	Salable		Total		Salable		Total	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
Chicago	2259918	2246200	2316639	2271247	87727	111684	124501	112694
Cincinnati	229106	232516	285636	290008	60009	62750	65449	71875
Denver	859862	865662	1032211	1027439	78950	97484	111604	135562
Fort Worth	624724	687053	818075	894631	166374	194036	222600	275166
Indianapolis	441564	489841	451372	497514	68186	82675	68551	83196
Kansas City	1169725	1206611	1593567	1603223	115626	161653	258803	342698
Oklahoma City	701298	775777	760347	833818	91684	129589	112003	161553
Omaha	2225071	2187782	2315530	2261048	99936	139470	120389	160005
St. Joseph	782230	746709	799372	775979	61599	76428	75080	86541
St. Louis NSY	900773	971156	1079076	1142267	216078	276822	302304	411067
Sioux City	1319327	1344591	1386178	1404098	95444	108953	118097	127197
S. St. Paul	1181983	1169766	1248915	1209791	513501	502894	537278	525650
Total	12695581	12923664	14086918	14211063	1655114	1944438	2116659	2493204
Percent of inc. or decrease	-1.8		-0.9		-14.9		-15.1	

Market	Hogs				Sheep			
Chicago	2740957	2197282	3291462	2978817	524079	454637	642968	473744
Cincinnati	789152	696862	841729	735659	67932	72005	93047	86603
Denver	159224	174036	602125	601762	1018294	953290	1481091	1566569
Fort Worth	118217	92117	651728	507942	863026	871587	1137095	1083198
Indianapolis	2443020	2154277	2443020	2154277	165347	204747	171021	214083
Kansas City	475540	442585	591293	519797	382774	342519	780508	748459
Oklahoma City	158353	125210	621856	605240	122599	121460	207146	199269
Omaha	2348675	1845549	3375819	2386149	758521	735537	952402	968347
St. Joseph	1366782	1108939	1732346	1408988	275190	271553	614091	685042
St. Louis NSY	2531899	2208200	2936350	2626408	306268	312892	632298	610199
Sioux City	1888586	1650480	2078237	1807371	421338	424616	561432	624182
S. St. Paul	3008125	2399727	3309631	2642162	609663	593650	827232	755195
Total	18028530	15095264	22475596	18974572	5515031	5358493	8100331	8014889
Percent of inc. or decrease	+19.4		+18.5		+2.9		+1.1	

INTERIOR IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

	Hogs	Sheep
Year 1955.	17,336,000	1,604,100
Year 1954.	14,243,000	1,592,400

WEEKLY RECEIPTS OF SALABLE LIVESTOCK AT 12 PUBLIC MARKETS

Market	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep	
	Jan. 7 1956	Jan. 8 1955	Jan. 7 1956	Jan. 8 1955	Jan. 7 1956	Jan. 8 1955	Jan. 7 1956	Jan. 8 1955
Chicago	40,733	38,291	1,377	1,542	68,322	65,945	11,896	14,641
Cincinnati	3,861	5,031	1,112	1,221	16,306	12,859	724	666
Denver	10,840	14,714	608	1,265	3,111	5,378	11,309	11,583
Fort Worth	7,693	11,342	2,379	4,351	2,120	2,241	8,029	13,958
Indianapolis	8,191	9,408	1,122	1,550	47,301	44,224	3,681	5,119
Kansas City	21,012	17,591	1,271	1,093	9,508	10,390	5,071	8,009
Oklahoma City	10,165	13,517	905	2,459	2,409	3,402	2,078	2,888
Omaha	39,364	35,952	810	701	64,739	62,847	9,670	15,965
St. Joseph	14,061	12,608	887	836	31,658	27,561	5,705	4,066
St. Louis NSY	16,261	16,330	3,784	4,859	55,888	51,237	8,581	7,976
Sioux City	25,329	22,727	1,443	1,656	59,269	57,271	9,087	11,925
S. St. Paul	21,951	21,472	14,115	13,623	89,879	56,327	15,843	15,645
Total	219,461	218,983	29,813	35,156	450,510	399,682	91,674	112,441
Dec. 31, 1955	186,436		18,682		432,894		89,257	

INTERIOR IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

Week ended:	Hogs	Sheep
Jan. 7, 1956	456,500	32,300
Dec. 31, 1955	417,000	31,200
Jan. 8, 1955	408,000	37,200

FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER

	Week ended			Month		Six Months	
	Jan. 5 1956	Dec. 29 1955	Jan. 6 1955	Dec. 1955	Dec. 1954	July - Dec. 1955	July - Dec. 1954
Steers – 1001# up	187	232	632	2,510	2,359	18,836	16,330
901-1000	816	885	1,510	7,296	7,240	44,506	44,636
801-900	2,567	1,775	2,960	16,377	16,641	96,543	104,540
701-800	2,777	1,531	2,977	18,445	18,036	165,797	170,277
501-700	4,208	2,701	6,106	31,876	40,166	347,402	381,136
Total steers 10 mkts.	10,555	7,124	14,185	76,504	84,442	673,084	716,919
Av. wts. " " "	735#	755#	738#	740#	722#	711#	706#
Av.cost* " " "	$15.96	$14.94	$18.96	$15.42	$18.38	$17.30	$18.19
" " " Chicago	16.68	15.72	19.50	16.18	19.14	18.14	19.17
" " " Ks. City	16.93	15.66	19.54	15.89	19.23	17.52	18.38
" " " Omaha	15.68	15.17	18.99	15.35	18.24	17.70	18.94
" " " S. St. Paul	13.93	13.43	16.76	14.12	16.64	15.71	16.25
" " " Sioux City	15.55	14.37	19.61	15.32	19.08	17.45	18.75
" " " Denver	16.27	15.56	21.19	15.67	20.35	18.16	19.80
" " " Ft. Worth	16.44	15.28	17.90	15.63	17.04	17.12	16.43
" " " Okla. City	16.03	15.33	17.66	15.30	17.05	16.14	15.49
" " " S. St. Joseph	16.02	16.00	17.98	15.29	18.09	16.62	17.27
" " " Natl. Stk. Yds.	15.39	15.28	18.34	15.39	17.51	16.80	1/16.60
Total calves–10 mkts.	4,733	3,274	6,446	43,440	57,838	368,856	480,327
" cows.							
heifers, bulls– " "	2,325	1,874	4,334	21,521	27,704	202,981	228,336

* Not adjusted for differences in grade of cattle sold at each market.

1/ Five months Aug.-Dec.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	Jan. 5 1956	Dec. 29 1955	Jan. 6 1955	Jan. 5 1956	Dec. 29 1955	Jan. 6 1955	Jan. 5 1956	Dec. 29 1955	Jan. 6 1955	Jan. 5 1956	Dec. 29 1955	Jan. 6 1955
CHICAGO												
Prime	6197	6804	2665	27.0	28.2	12.8	1221	1227	1154	22.28	21.72	31.41
Choice	11874	13245	11507	51.9	54.8	55.2	1144	1143	1116	20.51	20.08	26.86
Good	4225	3568	5660	18.5	14.8	27.1	1041	1084	1042	17.89	17.44	23.09
Com'l.	501	488	793	2.2	2.0	3.8	956	1017	934	15.10	14.57	18.17
Utility	95	48	226	.4	.2	1.1	980	968	892	13.04	12.34	14.88
All grades	22892	24153	20851				1141	1155	1091	20.46	20.09	26.11
OMAHA 1/												
Prime	478	1151	431	3.1	7.0	3.4	1208	1151	1148	21.58	21.58	29.90
Choice	10124	11758	7204	65.9	71.5	57.3	1143	1143	1134	19.70	19.50	25.56
Good	3634	2827	4457	23.7	17.2	35.5	1089	1085	1042	17.22	16.79	21.84
Com'l.	904	615	325	5.9	3.8	2.6	1094	1030	928	14.51	14.12	17.33
Utility	219	85	146	1.4	.5	1.2	947	921	847	12.42	11.60	14.22
All grades	15359	16436	12563				1127	1128	1093	18.81	18.98	24.18
SIOUX CITY 1/												
Prime	1130	780	358	14.3	9.6	5.9	1201	1204	1179	21.46	21.35	29.75
Choice	3733	4936	2943	47.1	60.7	48.7	1124	1175	1108	19.85	19.59	26.21
Good	2570	2165	2391	32.4	26.6	39.6	1046	1073	1077	17.94	17.34	22.74
Com'l.	449	226	243	5.7	2.8	4.0	970	1058	986	15.01	14.47	18.05
Utility	42	24	107	.5	.3	1.8	933	996	899	11.88	11.71	14.60
All grades	7924	8131	6042				1100	1147	1092	19.24	19.06	24.62
KANSAS CITY 1/												
Prime	171	--	113	2.2	--	2.2	1140	--	1197	21.32	--	28.87
Choice	3360	3565	3638	44.1	38.9	72.0	1146	1110	1099	19.50	18.90	24.85
Good	3710	4592	1214	48.7	50.2	24.0	1093	1102	1038	16.94	16.93	21.00
Com'l.	300	896	76	3.9	9.8	1.5	1034	1103	962	14.64	14.18	17.76
Utility	81	100	13	1.1	1.1	.3	1010	1011	1015	12.43	11.79	14.48
All grades	7622	9153	5054				1114	1100	1084	18.07	17.38	23.94
ST. LOUIS NSY 1/												
Prime	63	20	39	1.2	.4	1.2	1094	1109	1111	22.33	22.25	28.84
Choice	1061	701	851	20.0	15.5	24.7	1062	1073	1054	19.56	19.43	25.16
Good	2940	2563	2088	55.4	56.9	60.5	1053	1053	1012	17.44	16.85	21.67
Com'l.	1170	1136	408	22.0	25.2	11.8	971	998	931	15.31	14.68	17.75
Utility	72	88	63	1.4	2.0	1.8	862	935	921	12.46	12.43	15.40
All grades	5306	4508	3449				1035	1040	1012	17.44	16.69	22.12
S. ST. JOSEPH 1/												
Prime	7	62	40	.1	.9	.9	971	1144	1118	22.66	22.00	29.40
Choice	3402	3536	1865	55.0	51.2	42.2	1126	1131	1092	19.37	19.42	24.73
Good	2249	2266	2233	36.3	32.8	50.5	1071	1114	1022	16.71	16.65	20.94
Com'l.	489	982	236	7.9	14.2	5.4	1024	1080	969	14.70	14.07	17.12
Utility	45	62	45	.7	.9	1.0	806	908	853	11.90	11.40	14.49
All grades	6192	6908	4419				1095	1116	1048	18.05	17.74	22.45

Continued.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Month and Year											
	Dec. 1955	Dec. 1954	Year 1955	Dec. 1955	Dec. 1954	Year 1955	Dec. 1955	Dec. 1954	Year 1955	Dec. 1955	Dec. 1954	Year 1955
				CHICAGO								
Prime	33311	21400	228988	28.4	18.9	16.5	1244	1149	1226	21.92	29.69	23.62
Choice	63482	64764	778876	54.1	57.1	56.0	1130	1100	1134	20.35	26.53	23.16
Good	16383	23596	320055	13.9	20.8	23.0	1052	1030	1016	17.59	22.94	21.14
Com'l.	3665	2917	53345	3.1	2.6	3.8	963	931	952	14.69	18.13	17.62
Utility	577	696	9024	.5	.6	.7	938	870	906	12.14	14.53	14.79
All grades	117418	113373	1390288				1145	1089	1114	20.30	26.21	22.59
				OMAHA 1/								
Prime	4514	3067	30346	6.9	4.7	3.5	1200	1150	1216	21.37	28.65	22.82
Choice	44248	38031	528960	67.1	58.6	61.2	1136	1102	1108	19.60	25.35	22.16
Good	12922	21642	249720	19.6	33.4	28.9	1055	1044	1014	16.81	22.07	20.38
Com'l.	3613	1841	45282	5.5	2.8	5.3	1016	981	958	14.06	17.51	17.11
Utility	601	328	9414	.9	.5	1.1	958	910	908	11.32	14.27	14.61
All grades	65898	64909	863722				1116	1081	1075	18.87	24.21	21.39
				SIOUX CITY 1/								
Prime	2942	2488	20507	8.5	7.9	4.4	1236	1169	1198	21.09	28.38	22.89
Choice	20324	16751	261789	58.9	53.6	56.7	1168	1083	1126	19.85	25.35	22.07
Good	10003	10821	154863	29.0	34.6	33.6	1066	1072	1048	17.62	22.31	20.58
Com'l.	1069	1058	20469	3.1	3.4	4.4	1044	962	986	14.57	18.45	17.52
Utility	178	158	4158	.5	.5	.9	954	942	990	12.18	15.27	15.04
All grades	34516	31276	461786				1139	1081	1095	19.18	24.32	21.39
				KANSAS CITY 1/								
Prime	403	803	7099	1.3	3.3	2.6	1186	1178	1158	21.63	27.94	23.41
Choice	10103	12243	122911	31.8	50.4	45.2	1113	1101	1110	19.04	25.12	22.40
Good	16195	10273	117407	51.0	42.3	43.2	1077	1029	1039	17.01	22.15	19.80
Com'l.	4866	962	22255	15.3	4.0	8.2	1038	988	996	14.74	18.26	16.32
Utility	207	19	2139	.6	0	.8	983	968	953	11.86	15.33	14.42
All grades	31774	24300	271811				1083	1068	1070	17.37	23.75	20.82
				ST. LOUIS NSY 1/								
Prime	28	79	2792	.1	.4	1.1	1106	1021	1069	22.46	28.63	23.54
Choice	3934	4429	71410	19.4	30.2	29.0	1064	1032	1051	19.98	24.72	22.16
Good	9126	8291	110077	45.0	56.5	44.6	1045	986	985	17.07	21.76	20.40
Com'l.	6512	1580	49734	32.1	11.0	20.2	1025	943	908	15.05	18.41	17.48
Utility	702	286	12475	3.4	1.9	5.1	965	872	840	12.41	15.51	14.76
All grades	20302	14665	246488				1039	993	982	16.86	22.28	20.20
				S. ST. JOSEPH 1/								
Prime	236	115	2052	.9	.4	.7	1116	1214	1118	21.94	27.33	23.62
Choice	12310	13239	150521	49.4	49.1	48.6	1108	1091	1107	19.26	24.85	22.18
Good	8182	11733	122812	32.9	43.5	39.7	1077	1028	1033	16.41	21.66	19.92
Com'l.	3880	1740	30613	15.6	6.4	9.9	1048	985	1018	14.15	17.72	16.39
Utility	297	161	3487	1.2	.6	1.1	918	941	915	11.28	14.66	13.76
All grades	24905	26988	309485				1086	1056	1066	17.51	23.03	20.70

Continued.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	Jan. 5 1956	Dec. 29 1955	Jan. 6 1955	Jan. 5 1956	Dec. 29 1955	Jan. 6 1955	Jan. 5 1956	Dec. 29 1955	Jan. 6 1955	Jan. 5 1956	Dec. 29 1955	Jan. 6 1955
					DENVER 1/							
Prime	254	295	6	7.2	7.0	.2	1167	1135	919	22.98	22.90	27.00
Choice	2277	2222	1927	64.5	53.1	64.0	1131	1131	1088	20.14	19.89	25.60
Good	987	1568	1059	27.9	37.5	35.2	1146	1124	1069	17.98	17.70	23.95
Com'l.	14	91	11	.4	2.2	.4	1195	1103	934	15.00	14.41	20.00
Utility	--	9	8	--	.2	.2	--	849	1109	--	13.00	14.00
All grades	3532	4185	3011				1138	1127	1081	19.72	19.16	24.98
Grade	Dec. 1955	Dec. 1954	Year 1955	Dec. 1955	Dec. 1954	Year 1955	Dec. 1955	Dec. 1954	Year 1955	Dec. 1955	Dec. 1954	Year 1955
					DENVER 1/							
Prime	551	309	1884	3.8	1.8	.9	1150	1093	1156	22.77	27.06	23.74
Choice	7797	12467	165840	54.0	71.2	75.0	1109	1082	1098	20.25	25.38	23.10
Good	5771	4381	49654	39.9	25.0	22.5	1106	1072	1047	17.51	23.60	21.07
Com'l.	313	321	3393	2.2	1.8	1.5	1103	992	1014	14.75	19.23	16.30
Utility	9	24	271	.1	.2	.1	849	1120	892	13.00	15.11	13.27
All grades	14441	17502	221042				1109	1078	1085	19.53	24.85	22.56

1/ These summaries developed from data collected on marketings of fed cattle by the Agricultural Estimates Division.

ESTIMATED FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION

Week ended	Beef		Veal		Pork (excl. lard)		Lamb and Mutton		Total meat prod.	Total lard prod.
	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.		
	1,000	mil.lb.	1,000	mil.lb.	1,000	mil.lb.	1,000	mil.lb.	mil.lb.	mil.lb.
Jan. 7, 1956	342	187.4	141	16.1	1,435	190.3	267	12.8	406.6	51.4
Dec. 31, 1955	305	167.8	102	11.3	1,307	173.3	248	11.4	363.8	46.4
Dec. 24, 1955 1/	317	175.3	135	15.1	1,538	206.2	216	9.9	406.5	55.8
Jan. 8, 1955	356	189.9	149	17.8	1,327	186.5	279	13.3	407.5	50.0
Percentage change from:										
Dec. 31, 1955	+12	+12	+38	+42	+10	+10	+8	+12	+12	+11
Jan. 8, 1955	- 4	-1	- 5	-10	+ 8	+ 2	-4	-4	0	+3

Week ended	Average weight (lb.)								Lard yield per 100 lb.
	Cattle		Calves		Hogs 2/		Sheep and Lambs		
	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	
Jan. 7, 1956	1005	548	210	114	241	133	100	48	14.9
Dec. 31, 1955	1000	550	205	111	239	133	99	46	14.9
Dec. 24, 1955	1000	553	205	112	239	134	98	46	15.3
Jan. 8, 1955	980	533	219	119	250	141	100	48	15.1

1/ Actual slaughter and revised estimate of production. 2/ Excludes lard.

WEEKLY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION AT MAJOR CENTERS

City or Area	Cattle			Calves			Hogs			Sheep and lambs		
	Jan. 7 1956	Dec. 31 1955	Jan. 8 1955	Jan. 7 1956	Dec. 31 1955	Jan. 8 1955	Jan. 7 1956	Dec. 31 1955	Jan. 8 1955	Jan. 7 1956	Dec. 31 1955	Jan. 8 1955
Boston, New York City Area	11,084	10,500	11,772	9,915	8,382	9,963	53,355	52,418	48,015	45,045	44,243	50,610
Baltimore, Philadelphia	7,469	6,823	7,980	1,178	576	1,252	25,788	24,341	22,791	2,471	1,987	1,382
Cin., Cleve., Detroit, Indpls.	16,643	14,629	16,729	5,585	3,785	6,182	99,006	88,967	82,863	13,859	13,852	12,813
Chicago Area	23,466	20,800	25,288	6,978	4,948	7,930	53,818	49,724	66,533	6,527	8,191	7,166
St. Paul-Wis Areas	29,512	26,715	29,167	35,805	28,251	35,067	141,230	132,814	123,558	14,394	12,781	14,333
St. Louis Area	12,676	12,033	13,472	4,017	2,087	8,108	103,874	83,203	75,171	12,505	12,232	9,709
Sioux City	11,255	9,784	8,244	47	29	9	33,112	28,846	28,396	5,408	4,829	5,900
Omaha Area	31,541	30,389	30,705	747	535	774	101,832	94,293	91,730	15,606	14,873	19,171
Kansas City	15,496	14,796	15,695	2,474	1,493	3,607	45,878	43,467	34,715	12,189	8,808	11,260
Iowa-So. Minnesota	27,929	26,291	28,477	14,054	11,638	14,336	319,605	301,427	324,962	34,761	33,955	36,629
Lou'l. Evan'l. Nash'l. Mph's	8,349	5,878	9,188	8,577	3,823	8,732	51,779	44,282	40,739	Not available		
Georgia-Alabama Area	5,666	4,130	6,677	2,571	1,485	3,328	34,188	21,913	27,942	—	—	—
St. Jo'ph. Wichita, Okla. City	17,800	16,554	19,203	4,512	2,720	4,693	71,139	60,915	60,780	14,099	14,474	14,116
Ft. Worth, Dallas, San Antonio	14,626	10,379	17,164	6,561	3,554	7,703	29,607	26,200	20,289	10,577	7,939	10,330
Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City	15,059	13,618	18,115	1,042	385	1,136	16,863	17,609	19,023	16,958	14,892	13,845
Los Angeles, San Fran. Areas	27,056	22,343	28,034	3,097	2,879	2,646	36,008	33,071	36,216	28,230	20,549	32,036
Portland, Seattle, Spokane	6,881	5,930	7,146	477	243	453	20,008	19,196	14,389	3,629	3,135	4,837
Total	282,508	251,592	293,056	107,637	76,813	115,919	1,237,090	1,122,686	1,118,112	236,258	216,740	244,137

ESTIMATED PERCENT FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE AND SLAUGHTER COWS IN SALABLE RECEIPTS, JANUARY 7, 1956

Week ended	Chicago	Kansas City	Omaha	S. St. Joseph	St. Louis NSY	Sioux City	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	Denver	Ft. Worth	Okla. City	Wichita	San Antonio
Feeders and stockers													
Jan. 6, 1956	2	21	8	7	5	13	5	2	8	15	55	23	40
Dec. 30, 1955	1	12	6	5	8	15	5	2	5	15	45	1/	40
Jan. 7, 1955	2	34	8	11	3	22	8	7	12	30	60	1/	45
Slaughter cows													
Jan. 6, 1956	9	9	13	12	20	17	35	16	18	12	14	18	18
Dec. 30, 1955	7	9	13	11	19	9	35	17	15	10	12	1/	20
Jan. 7, 1955	16	12	14	21	21	10	35	28	25	10	19	1/	30

1/ Not available.

CATTLE: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	Chicago			Kansas City			Omaha		
	Jan. 7 1956	Dec. 31 1955	Jan. 8 1955	Jan. 7 1956	Dec. 31 1955	Jan. 8 1955	Jan. 7 1956	Dec. 31 1955	Jan. 8 1955
Slaughter cattle, calves and vealers									
Steers –									
Prime 900-1100#	23.53	22.97	30.95	22.12	21.88	29.15	22.31	21.94	30.20
1100-1300	23.03	22.38	31.65	21.75	21.38	29.40	22.22	21.81	30.98
Choice 900-1100	21.44	20.59	27.65	19.75	19.38	25.45	20.06	19.56	26.85
1100-1300	20.44	19.69	27.45	19.50	19.00	25.48	19.63	19.18	26.80
Good 900-1100	17.97	17.22	22.62	16.88	16.38	20.72	17.19	16.72	21.38
Com'l. All wts.	14.94	14.44	18.22	14.50	13.75	17.12	14.66	13.94	17.30
Heifers –									
Prime 600-800#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Choice " "	20.19	20.03	25.42	19.38	18.94	23.25	19.47	19.18	24.38
Good 500-900	16.94	16.84	21.15	16.50	15.94	18.68	16.47	16.06	20.08
Com'l. All wts.	13.75	13.50	16.68	13.94	13.25	14.55	13.69	13.06	15.50
Cows – All weights									
Commercial	12.50	11.90	12.50	12.50	12.00	12.12	12.13	12.00	11.92
Utility	11.28	10.81	11.10	11.50	10.88	10.62	10.81	10.72	10.30
Canner & Cutter	9.91	9.56	9.60	10.00	9.59	9.00	9.50	9.44	8.62
Bulls – All weights –									
Good	13.19	12.62	13.25	--	--	--	13.13	12.75	12.20
Utility & Commercial	15.32	15.02	15.25	12.74	12.38	12.45	13.62	13.12	13.35
Vealers – All weights –									
Choice & Prime	28.00	26.88	26.40	22.00	21.38	21.60	18.50	18.50	18.40
Com'l. & Good	22.50	21.12	20.70	17.50	17.12	16.40	14.50	14.50	14.50
Calves – 500# down									
Choice & Prime	19.00	18.50	21.10	17.00	16.00	18.10	16.00	16.00	17.45
Com'l. & Good	14.50	14.38	15.90	14.50	13.50	14.45	13.00	13.00	13.75
Feeder and stocker cattle and calves									
Steers –									
Choice 500-800#	19.75	19.88	22.05	19.00	18.50	21.50	19.00	18.75	21.88
Good " "	17.50	17.50	19.75	17.25	16.62	19.25	17.00	17.00	19.75
Medium 500-1000	14.75	14.38	16.75	15.00	14.50	16.75	14.50	14.50	16.62
Heifers –									
Choice 500-750	17.25	17.25	18.50	16.19	15.75	18.25	16.25	16.25	17.75
Med. & Gd. " "	14.00	13.75	15.25	13.69	13.00	15.00	13.12	12.88	14.12
Cows – All weights –									
Medium & Good	--	--	--	10.22	9.75	10.62	10.25	9.88	10.38
Calves – 300-500# –									
Steers –									
Good & Choice	20.50	20.38	21.60	19.50	19.25	20.50	20.12	20.12	21.75
Heifers –									
Good & Choice	17.25	17.25	18.25	16.50	16.00	17.25	16.75	16.75	17.38

HOGS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification		Chicago			Interior Iowa and southern Minnesota			Indianapolis		
		Jan. 7 1956	Dec. 31 1955	Jan. 8 1955	Jan. 7 1956	Dec. 31 1955	Jan. 8 1955	Jan. 7 1956	Dec. 31 1955	Jan. 8 1955
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160-180#	11.25	11.41	17.72	8.90	9.02	15.65	11.44	11.56	18.10
2 and 3	180-200	11.78	11.88	18.02	10.40	10.44	16.90	12.03	12.12	18.38
	200-220	11.74	11.79	17.90	10.72	10.76	17.15	11.91	12.09	18.35
	220-240	11.44	11.53	17.55	10.33	10.46	16.75	11.56	11.75	17.82
	240-270	10.56	10.75	16.60	9.78	9.92	16.02	10.94	11.16	17.00
	270-300	10.16	10.31	16.18	9.22	9.31	15.24	10.16	10.31	16.10
Sows –										
	300-330#	9.69	9.75	15.68	8.98	9.02	15.02	9.25	9.38	15.22
	360-400	9.28	9.34	15.25	8.38	8.40	14.12	8.91	9.12	14.80
	450-550	8.66	8.81	14.22	7.75	7.77	12.98	7.88	8.09	14.12
Pigs (stocker and feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Classification		Omaha			St. Louis National Stock Yards			Sioux City		
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160-180#	10.38	10.22	--	11.72	11.59	18.21	--	--	--
2 and 3	180-200	11.19	11.09	17.78	12.15	12.00	18.26	11.28	11.09	--
	200-220	11.19	11.09	17.78	12.06	11.91	18.14	11.28	11.09	17.32
	220-240	11.19	11.09	17.52	11.78	11.62	17.75	11.16	11.00	17.20
	240-270	10.53	10.40	16.75	11.16	11.08	17.00	10.44	10.50	16.42
	270-300	10.12	9.88	15.65	10.42	10.14	16.25	9.75	9.88	15.65
Sows –										
	300-330#	9.16	9.22	15.30	9.32	8.97	15.70	9.28	9.03	15.45
	360-400	9.16	9.22	15.30	8.95	8.59	15.32	8.81	8.66	15.12
	450-550	8.60	8.56	14.30	8.42	8.19	14.45	8.09	7.78	14.18
Pigs (stocker & feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Classification		S. St. Paul			Baltimore			N. Portland		
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160-180#	10.69	10.56	17.78	12.71	12.62	19.22	12.50	12.17	19.50
2 and 3	180-200	11.31	11.31	17.78	12.97	13.25	19.22	12.83	12.50	19.84
	200-220	11.31	11.22	17.65	12.97	13.25	19.22	12.83	12.50	19.84
	220-240	11.03	10.88	17.12	12.71	13.00	18.81	12.67	12.25	19.62
	240-270	10.28	10.22	16.40	12.25	12.56	18.06	11.92	11.38	18.69
	270-300	--	--	15.60	11.44	11.50	17.19	11.62	11.08	18.09
Sows –										
	300-330#	8.56	8.50	15.62	9.66	9.75	16.00	10.75	10.83	17.31
	360-400	8.44	8.25	15.12	9.62	9.75	16.00	10.25	10.42	16.75
	450-550	7.91	7.72	14.22	8.38	8.50	14.00	9.88	9.67	16.00
Pigs (stocker & feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	8.50	8.50	18.58	--	--	--	--	--	--

HOGS: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER OF PACKER AND SHIPPER PURCHASES 1/

Week ended		Chicago	St. Louis Natl. Stock Yards	Kansas City	Omaha	Sioux City	S. St. Joseph	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	8-mkts. combined
AVERAGE COST -				Dollars per 100 pounds						
Barrows and gilts	Jan. 7,1956	10.85	11.36	11.05	10.83	10.68	11.17	10.37	11.34	10.88
	Dec. 31,1955	11.06	11.39	11.01	10.78	10.71	10.86	10.33	11.50	10.90
	Jan. 8,1955	16.84	17.57	16.90	16.57	16.25	16.93	16.74	17.40	16.85
Sows	Jan. 7,1956	8.87	8.69	8.61	8.87	8.61	9.02	8.34	8.09	8.65
	Dec. 31,1955	9.00	8.40	8.52	8.78	8.29	8.76	8.21	8.21	8.57
	Jan. 8,1955	14.74	14.80	14.74	14.62	14.43	14.86	14.81	14.36	14.64
AVERAGE WEIGHT -				Pounds						
Barrows and gilts	Jan. 7,1956	242	230	231	233	234	223	223	230	231
	Dec. 31,1955	238	228	228	231	230	224	224	232	230
	Jan. 8,1955	248	229	241	251	253	241	235	236	243
Sows	Jan. 7,1956	444	438	446	413	412	404	425	477	434
	Dec. 31,1955	442	430	422	416	413	404	424	466	430
	Jan. 8,1955	447	436	462	446	446	428	439	478	448
NUMBER OF HEAD -										
Barrows and gilts	Jan. 7,1956	56804	48273	8602	57585	54333	28312	74881	42754	371544
	Dec. 31,1955	57082	52593	9246	52242	52338	26906	76262	40017	366686
	Jan. 8,1955	57298	45131	9656	56574	51894	25493	49642	40046	335734
Sows	Jan. 7,1956	6847	3399	647	4858	1866	2178	4439	3467	27701
	Dec. 31,1955	6125	3249	675	4055	2283	1792	4582	2892	25653
	Jan. 8,1955	3961	2534	399	3078	2206	1122	2413	2973	18686
SOWS				Percentage of total						
	Jan. 7,1956	11	7	7	8	3	7	6	8	7
	Dec. 31,1955	10	6	7	7	4	6	6	7	7
	Jan. 8,1955	6	5	4	5	4	4	5	7	5

1/ Weighted average.

WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE VALUE OF HOG PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM 100 LB. LIVE HOG, COMPARED WITH PRICES OF LIVE HOGS, CHICAGO

	Hog products 1/	Hog prices 2/	Gross spread or margin 3/
Jan. 7, 1956	$15.02	$11.78	+$3.24
Dec. 31, 1955	14.63	11.88	+ 2.75
Jan. 8, 1955	19.72	18.02	+ 1.70

1/ Value of all edible products, fresh basis (lard rendered) in 100 lb. of live hog computed from wholesale prices on carlot basis, Chicago, reported by National Provisioner daily market report.

2/ Mean of daily quotations on U.S.No. 1, 2 and 3 hogs, 180-200# wt.Chicago.

3/ Difference between wholesale product value and hog prices.

HOG AND CORN PRICES AT CHICAGO AND HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO

Week ended	Barrows and gilts Dollars per 100 pounds	Corn, 1/ No. 3, yellow Cents per bushel	Hog-corn price ratio based on barrows and gilts
Jan. 7, 1956	10.85	126.0	8.6
Dec. 31, 1955	11.06	125.3	8.8
Jan. 8, 1955	16.84	155.1	10.9

1/ Simple average price.

HOGS: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT AND NUMBER OF PACKER AND SHIPPER PURCHASES 1/

Month and year		Chicago	St. Louis Natl. Stock Yards	Kansas City	Omaha	Sioux City	S. St. Joseph	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	8-mkts. combined
AVERAGE COST -				Dollars per 100 pounds						
Barrows and gilts	Dec. 1955	10.73	11.28	10.72	10.46	10.35	10.72	10.24	11.29	10.67
	Dec. 1954	17.30	17.95	17.43	17.05	16.81	17.42	17.20	17.91	17.33
	Year 1955	15.16	15.81	15.59	14.72	14.40	15.25	14.71	16.00	15.19
	Year 1954	22.13	22.89	22.74	21.77	21.77	22.31	21.79	22.80	22.25
Sows	Dec. 1955	8.78	8.47	8.58	8.54	8.22	8.76	8.18	7.87	8.44
	Dec. 1954	14.76	14.93	14.61	14.68	14.45	14.85	14.52	14.36	14.64
	Year 1955	13.64	13.23	13.19	13.70	13.75	13.58	13.55	13.00	13.52
	Year 1954	18.73	18.97	18.44	18.97	18.75	18.92	18.51	18.64	18.75
AVERAGE WEIGHT -				Pounds						
Barrows and gilts	Dec. 1955	234	226	228	228	228	224	223	231	228
	Dec. 1954	243	229	234	240	242	232	229	233	236
	Year 1955	235	219	224	231	234	223	223	222	226
	Year 1954	238	223	227	236	242	226	225	224	230
Sows	Dec. 1955	436	430	415	412	408	398	413	463	425
	Dec. 1954	443	428	436	429	430	420	418	467	435
	Year 1955	402	402	407	376	367	375	366	439	387
	Year 1954	400	409	406	376	375	374	367	438	388
NUMBER OF HEAD - (in thousands) -										
Barrows and gilts	Dec. 1955	288	252	44	286	260	161	358	180	1,829
	Dec. 1954	254	199	36	235	227	131	274	170	1,527
	Year 1955	2,096	2,226	426	1,882	1,515	1,210	2,396	2,167	13,917
	Year 1954	1,690	1,916	393	1,452	1,310	974	1,891	1,932	11,557
Sows	Dec. 1955	34	18	4	23	12	11	23	16	141
	Dec. 1954	21	13	2	16	12	7	15	15	101
	Year 1955	386	164	31	350	243	127	395	198	1,894
	Year 1954	313	145	28	302	241	105	339	174	1,648
SOWS				Percentage of total						
	Dec. 1955	11	7	7	8	4	6	6	8	7
	Dec. 1954	8	6	5	7	5	5	5	8	6
	Year 1955	16	7	7	16	14	10	14	8	12
	Year 1954	16	7	7	17	16	10	15	8	12

1/ Weighted average.

AVERAGE WHOLESALE VALUE OF HOG PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM 100 LB. LIVE HOG, COMPARED WITH PRICES OF LIVE HOGS, CHICAGO

Month and year	Hog products 1/	Hog prices 2/	Gross spread or margin 3/
Dec. 1955	$14.50	$11.69	+$2.81
Dec. 1954	20.14	18.58	+ 1.56
Year 1955	18.28	16.40	+ 1.88
Year 1954	25.03	23.41	+ 1.62

1/ Value of all edible products, fresh basis (lard rendered) in 100 lb. of live hog computed from wholesale prices on carlot basis, Chicago, reported by National Provisioner daily market report.

2/ Mean of daily quotations on U. S. No. 1, 2 and 3 hogs, 180-200 lb. wt. Chicago.

3/ Difference between wholesale product value and hog prices.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS
In dollars per 100 pounds

		Chicago	Omaha	Kansas City	Fort Worth	Denver	Ogden & North Salt Lake	South San Francisco
LAMBS - 110# down (WOOLED) -								
Choice and Prime	Jan. 7, 1956	18.75	18.75	18.44	--	19.50	--	19.25
	Dec. 31, 1955	18.53	18.44	18.44	--	--	17.12	19.25
	Jan. 8, 1955	20.79	20.48	19.75	--	20.40	--	21.00
Good and Choice	Jan. 7, 1956	18.12	17.50	17.44	16.75	18.88	16.50	--
	Dec. 31, 1955	17.78	17.44	17.50	16.65	18.56	16.12	--
	Jan. 8, 1955	19.62	19.45	19.02	18.40*	19.52	18.65	20.00
EWES (WOOLED) -								
Good and Choice	Jan. 7, 1956	6.12	4.38	4.62	--	7.03	6.00	--
	Dec. 31, 1955	6.12	4.38	4.62	--	6.75	6.00	--
	Jan. 8, 1955	6.50	5.65	6.25	--	8.25	--	6.50
Cull and Utility	Jan. 7, 1956	4.75	3.50	3.62	--	5.25	3.75	4.50
	Dec. 31, 1955	4.75	3.50	3.62	--	5.00	3.50	--
	Jan. 8, 1955	5.45	4.50	5.00	--	6.12	--	4.50
FEEDER LAMBS -								
Good and Choice	Jan. 7, 1956	--	16.88	--	--	17.50	14.50	--
	Dec. 31, 1955	--	16.62	--	--	17.50	14.50	--
	Jan. 8, 1955	--	18.75	15.70	16.25	18.50	--	15.00

*Shorn basis.

HOG AND CORN PRICES AT CHICAGO AND HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO

Month and Year	Barrows and gilts 1/ Dollars per 100 pounds	Corn, 1/ No. 3, Yellow Cents per bushel	Hog-corn price ratio based on barrows & gilts
Dec. 1955	10.73	125.0	8.6
Nov. 1955	12.23	117.3	10.4
Dec. 1954	17.30	152.2	11.4
Year 1955	15.16	135.0	2/11.4
Year 1954	22.13	155.7	2/14.5

1/ Weighted average. 2/ Simple average of monthly ratios.

NEW YORK WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Western Dressed Fresh Meats

Aggregate receipts of Western dressed fresh meats were mostly normal, but the salable supply of lamb was supplemented by a few carloads carried from the previous week. Trading was retarded on Monday by unfavorable weather, with many retailers unable to participate during early hours. Demand was curtailed on subsequent days, with action only fair at best. Movement of beef, veal and calf was slow but rather dependable, while action on lamb and fresh pork lagged somewhat. Prices were revised upward on early days, but initial advances were lost in some instances. Compared with the previous Friday: Steer beef steady to $1.00 higher; cow beef and calf unchanged; veal steady to $3.00 higher; lamb steady to in instances $4.00 higher; pork loins about steady, other fresh pork cuts steady to $2.00 lower.

Steer offerings were normal in most sales coolers, with most grades and weights represented. Supply of carcasses 700# down grading Choice and Prime was relatively small, however, and these moved rather freely and usually at the top prices for the week. Most forequarter and loin cuts sold slowly, but ribs and rounds moved dependably.

Unloads of veal consisted mainly of Utility to low-Good carcasses 80# down. High-Good to Prime carcasses were relatively inadequate, and calf numbers were sharply reduced. Carcass lamb prices on freshly unloaded stocks were mostly higher at the outset, but the market appeared top-heavy, with downturns registered later. Trading held to s slow pace for most offerings.

Movement of a normal fresh pork supply followed a slow but rather dependable course early, when asking prices on pork loins were about $2.00 up. Demand subsided after Wednesday, however, and prices on loins and other cuts were revised downward to invite buyer interest. Some carryover was indicated.

Locally Dressed Fresh Meats

Trading was only fair at local wholesale centers, and demand was not as broad as anticipated for a short work week. Prices for most non-kosher offerings were higher at the outset, with sharp upturns on veal hindsaddles. Prices weakened later, however, as demand narrowed, and daily stocks were mostly in excess of current inquiry. Movement of lamb slowed progressively; and was very slow late in the week. Action on kosher classes was only fair, with prices of kosher steer cuts holding to closing levels of the previous week. Kosher veal advanced, but upturns on kosher lamb foresaddles were lost in late trading.

Most grades and weights of steer hindquarters and cuts were represented. Demand was fairly broad for Good to Prime hindquarters 170# down, with prices slightly higher. Lightweight primal cuts also found dependable outlet, particularly ribs, while heavyweight offerings were discounted slightly to sharply to effect clearance. Kosher buyers operated selectively, with prices higher in instances. However, the general trade averaged about steady. Trading ranged from fair to slow.

Veal carcasses comprised the greater portion of daily kills as calf numbers were very small. Prices advanced on both veal and calf but upturns were short of the higher replacement costs. Lamb stocks were generally in excess of current requirements. Early prices were mostly higher, with average upturns of $1.00 to $2.00, with the advance well maintained on Choice and Prime 40-50# selections. Other offerings closed weak to lower. Kosher lamb foresaddles sold slowly at weaker prices late after opening sharply higher.

Fresh pork loins were priced about $2.00 higher at the outset, but trading lagged progressively, with the close on most fresh pork cuts about steady to slightly lower in instances. Slaughter of cattle and calves increased moderately with little change in hog and lamb kills from a week earlier.

Due primarily to the three-day holiday last week-end, supplies of all fresh meat for the current week were below normal, but usually more than ample for trade requirements. Good and Choice grades comprised bulk of beef offerings, while lamb and veal consisted mostly of carcasses grading Choice and lower. Trade on pork cuts opened fairly active at firm to higher prices but trade slowed later. Lamb and veal carcasses and most lamb cuts sold in a fairly active trade. Current prices on Choice and Prime lamb are the highest since the first week in December 1955. Most beef cuts were in good demand, with square-cut chucks and rounds $2.00 to 3.00 higher for the week. Wholesale meat houses except to carry over some lamb forequarter meat and fresh pork. Otherwise clearances should be fairly good. Compared to last Thursday's close: Beef mostly steady to $1.00 higher; veal unchanged; lamb 50¢ to $2.00 higher; pork loins 8 to 16 lbs. $2.00 to 3.00 lower; Boston butts 4 to 8 lbs. $1.00 higher; spareribs 3 lb. down steady.

Choice and Prime squarecut beef chucks sold at $28.00-30.00, comparable rounds $39.00-42.00; Prime loins $73.00-79.00, Choice $61.00-65.00; Prime ribs $54.00-57.00, Choice 47.00-50.00; Choice and Prime kosher style beef chucks $30.00-32.00. Choice veal hindsaddles sold from $54.00-57.00 comparable forequarters $21.00-25.00. Lamb hindsaddles cashed at $46.00-51.00, legs $43.00-48.00, loins 57.00-62.00, and hotel ribs $49.00-53.00.

PACIFIC COAST WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Reduced slaughter operations due to the holiday resulted in smaller supplies of fresh meats at wholesale centers on the West Coast. Most steer carcasses were in moderate volume while offerings of veal, calf and lamb were limited. Forequarter cuts of beef which have been in excessive supply for the past few weeks were also clearing including holdovers. Volume of pork was moderate to slightly liberal but demand was sufficient to keep supplies moving. Trading activity and demand improved on most classes but higher asking prices occasionally slowed the trade. Prices compared with last Friday: Steer beef strong to $1.00 higher at Los Angeles and Portland and weak at San Francisco; cow beef $1.00-2.00 higher at all points; veal and calf strong to $1.00 higher, instances veal $2.00 higher at San Francisco; lamb steady to $1.00 higher; fresh pork steady to $2.00 higher except Boston butts $1.00 lower at San Francisco; smoked pork steady except smoked skinned hams $2.00 lower in instances at Los Angeles and bacon $2.00 lower at San Francisco; lard steady to 50¢ lower.

Choice steer carcasses under 700 lbs. brought $31.00-35.00, few to $36.00 at San Francisco and $37.00 at Seattle, 700-800 lbs. $31.00-32.00 in California; Good 500-700 lbs. $29.00-34.00, few $35.00 at Seattle; Commercial $27.00-31.00; Commercial cow beef $23.00-26.00, Utility $22.00-25.00; Canner and Cutter $18.00-22.00. Good and Choice veal under 150 lbs. brought mostly $40.00-46.00; same grades calf under 300 lbs. $30.00-39.00; Commercial and Good calf $30.00-32.00 at San Francisco. Choice and Prime lamb under 55 lbs. cashed at $37.00 - 41.00, few $42.00 at Seattle. Fresh closely trimmed pork loins under 16 lbs. cleared from $34.00-38.00, few to $40.00 at San Francisco; shoulders under 16 lbs. $21.00-30.00; fresh skinned hams under 18 lbs. $38.00-46.00; spareribs under 3 lbs. $30.00-38.00. Smoked skinned hams under 18 lbs. brought $41.00-47.00, few $50.00 at San Francisco; slab bacon under 10 lbs. $28.00-40.00; lard in 1 lb. cartons $14.00-18.00.

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEAT PRICES: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification		New York			Chicago			San Francisco		
		Jan. 7 1956	Dec. 31 1955	Jan. 8 1955	Jan. 7 1956	Dec. 31 1955	Jan. 8 1955	Jan. 7 1956	Dec. 31 1955	Jan. 8 1955
Beef –										
Steer –										
Prime	600–700#	39.00	39.00	--	36.75	35.75	48.15	--	--	--
	700–800	37.00	37.00	49.00	36.75	35.75	48.15	--	--	--
Choice	500–600	--	--	--	36.25	35.00	44.40	35.50	35.50	42.00
	600–700	36.00	35.50	45.50	36.25	35.00	43.90	34.00	34.00	40.00
Good	350–600	31.50	31.50	41.00	30.69	29.94	37.80	32.75	32.75	39.00
Com'l.	" "	29.50	29.50	36.50	28.00	27.00	32.50	29.00	29.00	36.00
Cow, all wts. –										
Commercial		25.00	25.00	27.50	--	--	--	26.50	25.50	27.80
Utility		22.00	22.00	23.50	--	--	--	23.50	22.50	23.60
Veal –										
Prime	80–110#	46.00	45.50	44.50	44.50	44.50	44.60	--	--	--
Choice	" "	41.00	40.50	39.10	39.50	39.00	40.10	--	--	--
Good	" "	36.00	34.00	34.50	35.50	35.00	35.10	43.00	41.00	43.00
Lamb –										
Prime	40–50#	38.62	36.75	43.50	37.38	36.00	43.50	39.00	39.00	40.00
	50–60	34.50	31.50	43.50	34.12	32.88	42.00	37.00	37.00	38.50
Choice	40–50	38.62	36.75	41.90	37.38	36.00	42.50	39.00	39.00	40.00
	50–60	34.00	31.50	41.90	34.12	32.88	41.00	37.00	37.00	38.00
Good	all wts.	32.25	27.50	40.50	33.56	32.00	40.00	36.50	36.50	36.00
Pork – Fresh –										
Loins	8–10# av.	34.00	32.25	40.60	31.75	31.50	38.80	38.50	38.38	44.50
	10–12 "	34.00	32.25	40.60	31.75	31.50	38.80	38.00	37.50	43.00
	12–16 "	33.25	31.25	37.80	31.06	30.50	36.90	37.00	36.62	43.00
Butts	4–8 "	29.25	29.00	38.00	25.44	24.50	34.70	32.88	33.75	44.00
Pork – Cured –										
Hams, smk., skd. –										
	12–16# av.	41.50	44.00	52.00	45.00	44.50	51.50	48.50	48.50	56.00
	16–18 "	41.00	41.50	46.50	42.00	41.75	48.50	46.00	46.00	52.00
	18–20 "	--	--	--	42.62	42.25	47.75	--	--	--
Bacon, smk., slab –										
	6–8# av.	--	--	--	36.12	36.50	56.00	38.00	40.00	57.50
	8–10 "	35.00	32.50	51.50	33.88	35.00	53.00	37.00	37.00	54.00
Sliced 1 # pkg.		40.00	39.50	54.50	38.50	38.50	55.50	40.50	42.50	58.50
Picnics, smoked –										
	4–8# av.	23.00	23.00	36.00	26.88	27.62	35.25	30.00	28.00	37.00
Backs, D. S. –										
	16–20# av.	13.50	15.00	16.50	11.50	13.50	15.75	--	--	--
Lard, 1# cartons –										
Refined		16.00	15.00	17.00	14.25	14.25	16.75	17.50	17.50	19.90
Substitutes		--	--	--	25.00	25.00	27.50	--	--	--

Note: Prices are based on sales by slaughterers, packer branch houses, and wholesale dealers to retail dealers and hotel supply houses. Quotations at New York exclude locally dressed meats.

Turnover of greasy domestic worsted wools in the Boston market was smaller than a week earlier as prices continued very firm. Most sales were of fine wools with some 60s and 60/62s. Trade was limited due to lack of offerings. Prices for scoured wools and noils showed an upward trend with limited offerings in the local market. Noils were scarce as some private cables from England indicated production was sold up through March. A modest volume of 12 months wool was purchased during the past week in Texas. Trade was rather dull in the Territory states. Sales resumed at East London in South Africa on January 5 and at Port Elizabeth on January 6 while the Australian auctions will reopen at Sydney on January 9 and at Wanganui, New Zealand on January 11. Prices at South American markets continued firm and unchanged.

Fleece Wools - Graded 60s with some 62s good French combing and staple Fleece wool sold at $1.15 clean basis.

Territory Wools - A lot of graded 60/62s good French combing and staple Territory wool brought $1.19/1.20 clean.

Texas Wools - Original bag 12 months Texas wool, bulk good French combing and staple sold around $1.33 while bulk good French combing 12 months in original bags brought about $1.35.

Bulk good French combing original bag 12 months wool sold inTexas around $1.30/1.31 clean, delivered Boston while original bag, bulk average to good French combing was purchased at an estimated clean price of $1.25/1.26 delivered.

Mohair - A little mohair was contracted in Texas on the basis of 81½¢ for Adult and $1.01½ for Kid mohair to the warehouse. The local market continued very quiet.

Sales of CCC Wools - The Commodity Credit Corporation announced on January 5, that approximately 3 million pounds of C.C.C. owned wool, from bids received on about 40 million pounds, were sold the opening week of the January sale. The principal grades, quantity and sales price ranges follow:

	pounds	
Graded territory Fine staple and good French	88,458	$1.32-1.35
" " " Average " " "	249,382	1.26-1.28
" " 1/2 blood staple and good French	287,882	1.202 -1.231
" " 3/8s " " " " "	697,633	1.11-1.144
" " 1/4 " "" " " "48/50s	168,728	1.04-1.062
O.B. Texas 12 Mos. good French and staple	134,896	1.36-1.396
" " 12 " average and good French	145,820	1.32-1.393
Graded Fleece 3/8s staple and good French	167,054	1.055-1.093
" " 1/4 # " " "48/50s	495,442	1.012

Foreign Wools - A spot lot of scoured shorn average style Buenos Aires November second clip 36/40s sold around 86¢ in bond while greasy Buenos Aires November Second Clips sold for shipment at 86¢ clean basis. Montevideo super skirted wools were priced as follows: 64s at 60¢; 60s and 58/60s at 64 3/4¢; 56s and 50/56s and 50s at 65½¢, all grease basis in bond. A very poor selection was reported in South Africa as sales resumed under general competition. Offerings follow: Type 7 at $1.22; 8 at $1.195; 12 at $1.195; 47 at $1.195; 48 at $1.17; 52 at $ 1.17 and 53 at $ 1.15.

Carpet Wools * Trading of Carpet Wools was quiet. Coarse light yellow Indian Carpet Wool sold for shipment at 83¢ clean fibers present while a white pulled near Eastern wool sold at 80¢ and a Continental skin wool sold at 80¢ clean for shipment. Spot Buenos Aires November second clip Carpet Wools were refused at 86¢ clean fibers present.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED, UNITED STATES, DECEMBER 1955, WITH COMPARISONS 1/

Month and period	Cattle: Federally Inspected	Cattle: Other wholesale & retail	Cattle: Total	Cattle: Av. live weight	Calves: Federally Inspected	Calves: Other wholesale & retail	Calves: Total	Calves: Av. live weight
	Thousand head			Pounds	Thousand head			Pounds
Nov. 1955	1,661.7	557.9	2,219.6	955	700.1	409.3	1,109.4	213
Oct. 1955	1,692.8	586.0	2,278.8	948	727.7	433.0	1,160.7	220
Jan.-Nov.1955	17,438.4	6,207.2	23,645.6	938	6,866.4	4,525.9	11,392.3	218
Jan.-Nov.1954	16,893.6	6,013.3	22,906.9	924	6,933.9	4,744.2	11,678.1	221
	Hogs				Sheep and Lambs			
Nov. 1955	6,857.1	1,251.0	8,108.1	233	1,161.6	176.3	1,337.9	96
Oct. 1955	6,144.1	1,068.7	7,212.8	227	1,247.5	167.5	1,415.0	93
Jan.-Nov.1955	54,045.8	11,757.8	65,803.6	237	13,228.6	1,754.7	14,983.3	96
Jan.-Nov.1954	46,774.9	10,643.3	57,418.2	240	12,980.5	1,626.9	14,607.4	95

1/ Excludes farm slaughter. "Other wholesale and retail" slaughter is estimated.

MEAT AND LARD PRODUCTION, UNITED STATES NOVEMBER 1955 1/

Month and period	Beef	Veal	Pork 2/	Lamb and Mutton	Total meat 2/	Lard 3/
	Million Pounds					
Nov. 1955	1,139	129	1,074	61	2,403	265
Oct. 1955	1,173	142	946	62	2,323	214
Jan.-Nov. 1955	12,109	1,374	8,916	686	23,085	2,165
Jan.-Nov. 1954	11,527	1,428	7,920	660	21,535	1,863

1/ Excludes farm slaughter. 2/ Excludes lard and rendered pork fat.
3/ Includes rendered pork fat. Agricultural Estimates Division.

WESTERN LIVESTOCK REVIEW - Continued from page 23

Choice heifers $17.00-19.25, Good $15.00-17.50, Utility and Commercial $12.00-15.00. Most Utility and Commercial cows cashed from $10.00-13.00, Canners and Cutters $8.00-10.50. Choice and Prime vealers cleared from $20.00-26.00, Good and Choice vealers and slaughter calves $18.00-20.00 and occasionally higher. A limited volume of Good to low-Choice stocker and feeder steers brought $16.00-18.75; Good and Choice heifers $14.00-15.70; same grades stock steer calves $16.00-20.00, one load 380# at Denver $21.50.

Choice fed steers under 1200# sold out of California feedlots from $19.00-19.50, a few loads under 1075# $20.00-20.25, Good steers $16.00-18.00; Good and Choice fed heifers $16.00-18.50. Sales f.o.b. feedlot at mostly 4% shrink. A scattering of Good and Choice stocker and feeder steers cleared from $16.00-17.00, load Good 508# $17.50 f.o.b. New Mexico.

Mixed lots U. S. No. 1 to 3 180-240# barrows and gilts sold at Portland late at $12.00-13.50; at South San Francisco and Stockton $13.00; at Los Angeles $11.50-12.50; at Ogden $12.00-12.35, and at Denver $11.00-12.35.

Choice 93-111# wooled slaughter lambs brought $19.50 at Denver, a few $19.75, Good and Choice $18.50-19.25; same grades at other points mostly $17.00-18.75 with full wooled at South San Francisco from $19.00-19.50. Several loads mostly Choice fall shorn to full wooled slaughter lambs sold in the Imperial Valley from $19.00-19.50 f.o.b. feedlot at mostly 4% shrink.

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, Jan. 3, 1956

SUMMARY

The fall bulge in livestock slaughter, which pushed meat output to an all-time record rate, has passed. Slaughter this winter will be down seasonally but above last winter. Cattle slaughter will equal or exceed last winter. A back-log of long-fed steers had been worked off fairly well by January 1, and partly-finished steers and heifers of middle grades will make up a larger part of slaughter in weeks ahead than in the fall. Slaughter of hogs will decrease, as usual, but it will stay above last year. Sheep and lamb slaughter might be slightly less than last winter.

Total meat output will likely exceed last year during the first half of 1956, but it may be smaller than a year earlier in the second half. Because cattle went on feed earlier and at heavier weights more of the year's total fed cattle slaughter will probably come in the first half in 1956 than in 1955, and less in the second. The 12 percent larger fall pig crop assures a larger slaughter of hogs in the first half; because a 2 percent smaller spring crop is planned by producers, slaughter in the second half may fall below the same period of 1955.

Regionally, increases in spring farrowings are in prospect in the South, while some sharp decreases are planned in the Western Corn Belt.

Prices of cattle in 1956 are expected to average slightly higher than in 1955, and hog prices slightly lower. Based on the prospective supplies, stronger prices of meat animals are more likely later in the year than earlier. Prices of high grade fed steers may recover moderately early in 1956, but will stay below last year's prices for several months. Prices of lower grade steers and heifers may be slower to increase, and the price spread between grades may widen temporarily. The spread is likely to narrow with the approach of spring when prices of lower grade stock will likely rise seasonally. Prices of hogs promise to climb from their depths of late November and December. However, substantial increases are not likely before mid-spring because of the sizable marketings of fall-born hogs in prospect. Prices of lambs probably will increase seasonally during the winter.

Through December 31 the Department of Agriculture had contracted for 33 million pounds of pork and 31 million pounds of lard. Purchases are being made to provide price assistance by helping to remove surplus supplies. Pork obtained is being donated to school lunches and other eligible outlets.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
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LIVESTOCK PRICES AT CHICAGO COMPARED WITH WHOLESALE AND COMPOSITE RETAIL MEAT PRICES AND WHOLESALE AND RETAIL MEAT VALUES AT NEW YORK

	Steers			Lambs			Hogs		
	Dec. 1955	Nov. 1955	Dec. 1954	Dec. 1955	Nov. 1955	Dec. 1954	Dec. 1955	Nov. 1955	Dec. 1954
	Dollars per 100 pounds								
Live animal prices									
Chicago 1/.....	21.92	22.10	28.22	18.31	19.28	20.07	11.17	12.40	18.01
Wholesale meat prices, New York 2/	36.74	37.76	46.54	37.14	41.31	42.38	--	--	--
	Cents per pound								
Composite retail meat prices, New York 3/	59.20	60.53	71.23	50.94	54.44	57.50	--	--	--
	Value of carcass meat from 100# live animal (Dollars)								
Wholesale-New York 4/	22.04	22.66	27.92	18.20	20.24	20.77	18.05	19.17	23.58
Retail - New York 5/	28.06	28.69	33.76	24.04	25.70	27.14	23.26	24.27	29.65

1/ Av. Choice and Prime steers, 900-1100 lb., Choice and Prime lambs, and U. S. No. 1, 2 and 3 hogs, 220-240 lb.

2/ Av. Choice and Prime steer beef, 600-800 lb., and Choice and Prime lamb.

3/ Composite av. of semi-monthly retail quotations on various cuts (incl. lard) combined in proportion to their respective yields from live weight.

4/ 60 lb. of beef carcass, 49 lb. of lamb carcass and 62.11 lb. of principal hog products consisting of smoked, skinned hams, bacon, picnics, fresh loins, Boston butts, spareribs, and carton lard combined in proportion to their respective yields from live weight.

5/ 47.4 lb. of beef cuts, 47.2 lb. of lamb cuts and 60.37 lb. of principal hog products, incl. lard.